

Message Text

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14

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11 AECE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20

OMB-01 DRC-01 /165 W

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P R 280852Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1378

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0051

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENNA 0712

FROM US REP MBFR

WITH THE PAPER ON TACTICS TO BE FOLLOWED WITH THE EAST. APPROVAL HAD SEEMED NEAR IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK, WITH ALL REPS APPROVING TEXT, EVEN THOUGH THE BRITISH REP HAD BEEN CAREFUL TO SAY HIS AGREEMENT TO THE TEXT HAD ONLY BEEN AD REFERENDUM TO HIS AUTHORITIES. THE TOUGH NEW INSTRUCTIONS THE BRITISH DELEGATION RECEIVED THIS WEEK WERE CHARACTERISTIC OF LONDON'S REACTION WHEN EVEN MINOR INNOVATIONS ON THE PART OF THE ALLIES CONTEMPLATED. SPECIFICALLY, THE UK FOREIGN OFFICE, NOT WISHING TO COMMIT IT ELF TO ANY ASPECT OF PHASE 2, WAS VERY RELUCTANT FOR THE ALLIES TO MENTION THAT THEY WERE WILLING AT A LATER POINT TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF A PROVISION IN A PHASE I AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THAT PHASE 2 WOULD BEGIN IN A FIXED PERIOD OF TIME (WHOSE DURATION WOULD BE ESTABLISHED LATER) FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF A SATISFACTORY

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PHASE.

5. THE FOREIGN OFFICE INDICATED IT BELIEVED THAT THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO THE SOVIETS, AND THAT

IT PERCEIVED THE POSSIBILITY OF CONCESSIONS IN THE TACTICAL PAPER. FONOFF THOUGHT THAT THE WISEST ALLIED TACTIC FOR NOW IS TO MARK TIME AND WAIT FOR THE OTHER SIDE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS.

6. AFTER THREE LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS OF THE PAPER THIS WEEK IN THE GROUP, LANGUAGE WAS ARRIVED AT THAT SATISFIED THE BRITISH AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE ALLIES. THE EFFECT OF THE CHANGES WAS TO CIRCUMSCRIBE SOMEWHAT THE STATEMENTS THE ALLIES CAN MAKE TO THE EASTERN SIDE TO ENCOURAGE THEIR AGREEMENT TO AN INITIAL FOCUS ON US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES. THE AD HOC GROUP AGREED TO FORWARD THE REPORT TO BELGIAN REP ADRIAENSSEN SO THAT HE COULD DISTRIBUTE IT AT THE TIME OF HIS REPORT TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL ON 25 JANUARY ON THE STATUS OF THIS ROUND OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. EARLIER IN THE WEEK, THE AD HOC GROUP HAD GIVEN ITS BLESSING TO AN OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION ADRIAENSSEN INTENDED TO MAKE ORALLY.

7. ASSESSMENT: WHILE THE TWO-A-WEEK PLENARY SCHEDULE WILL PROBABLY PERSIST, SOVIET COMMENTS THIS WEEK INDICATED THAT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST HAVE A REASONABLE CHANCE OF GETTING UNDER WAY SOON. TO SATISFY BOTH THE SOVIETS AND SOME ALLIED PARTICULARLY THE BELGIANS, TURKS AND GREEKS, WHO OBJECT TO AN INSTITUTIONALIZED SYSTEM OF DESIGNATED ALLIED EMISSARIES, THE INFORMAL MEETINGS WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO GO UNDER THE GUISE OF SOCIAL OCCASIONS. THE CUTTING BACK OF THE LANGUAGE IN THE ALLIED TACTICS PAPER IN ORDER TO SATISFY LONDON HAS LEFT THE WEST WITH LIMITED BARGAINING LEVERAGE TO OBTAIN THE AGREEMENT OF THE EAST TO A PROCEDURAL UNDERSTANDING TO DISCUSS US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES FIRST.HUMES

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